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Aguilar Ruelas et al.

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(54) **SLIDING TRAY**

USPC 296/37.16, 37.14, 37.3, 37.5, 37.6
See application file for complete search history.

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U.S.C. 154(b) by 149 days.

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B60R 7/02 (2006.01)
B60R 13/01 (2006.01)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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(2013.01); **B60R 13/013** (2013.01)

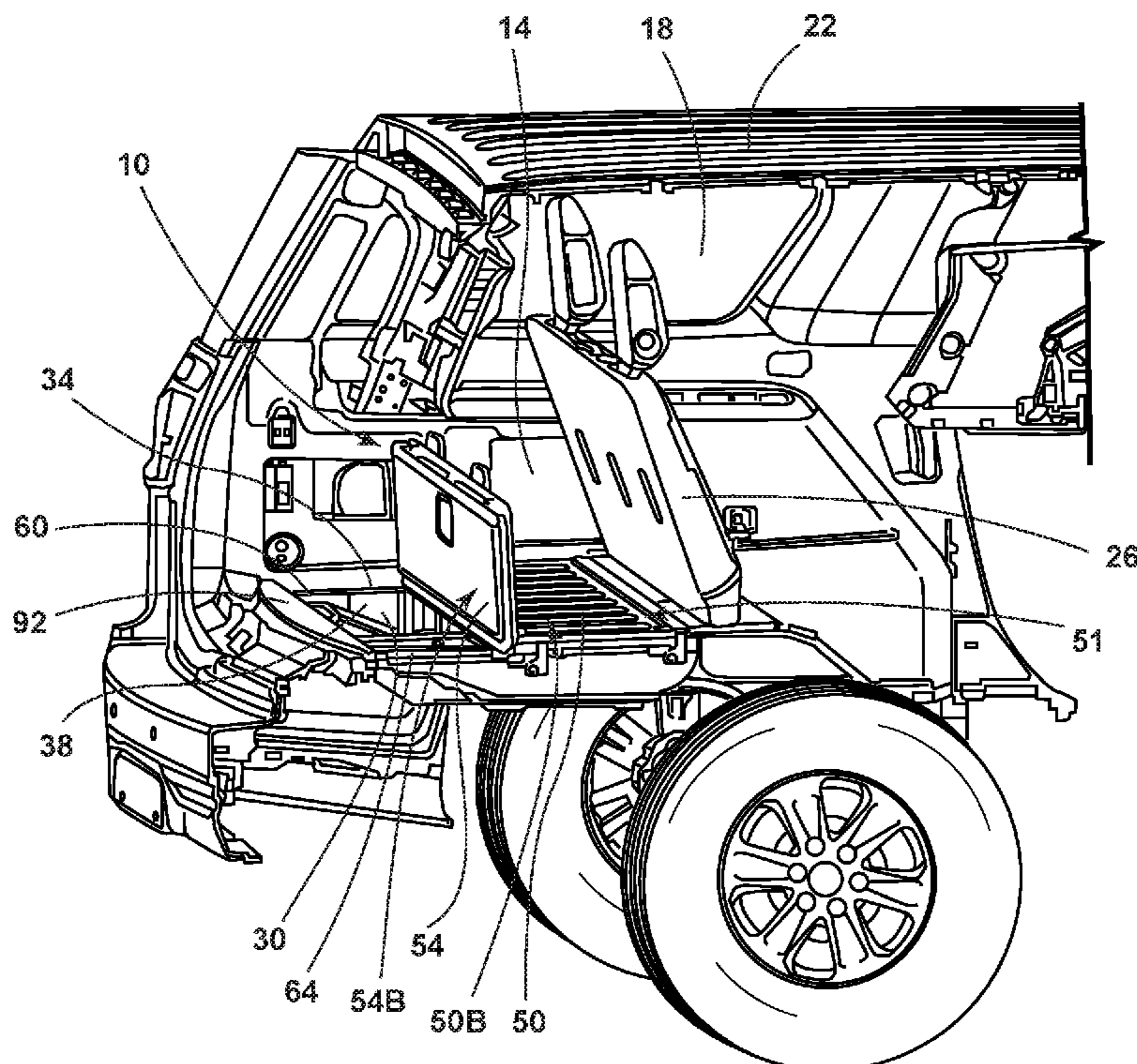
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A vehicular cargo assembly includes a first panel slidably
mounted on a floor of a vehicle cabin and selectively and
alternatively positionable in a first position or a second
position. A storage space is disposed below the floor. The
first panel is configured to cover the storage space in the first
position.

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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7/02; B60R 11/0029; B60R 13/013; B60R
2013/018; B60R 13/011; B62D 43/10

16 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



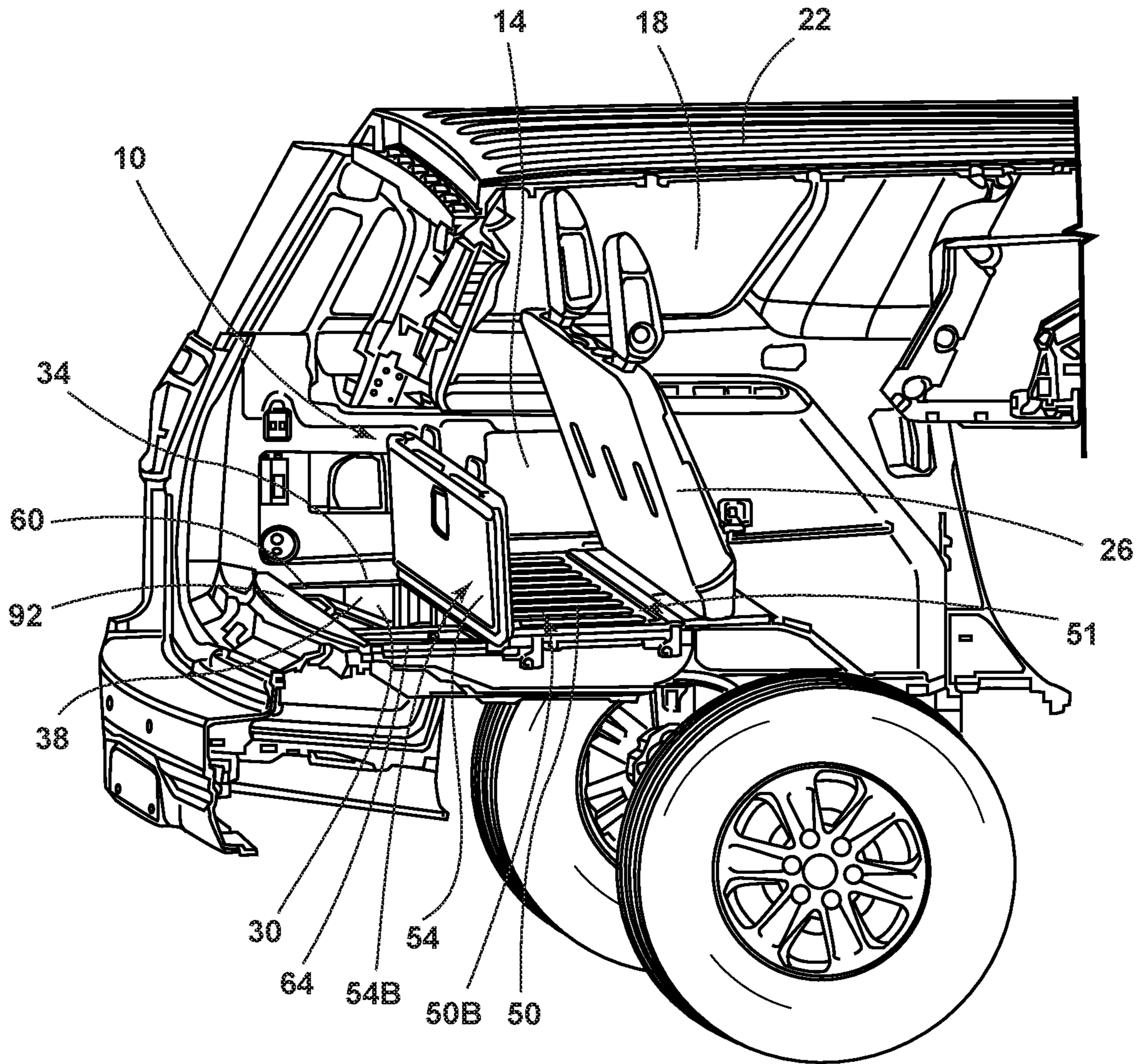


FIG. 1

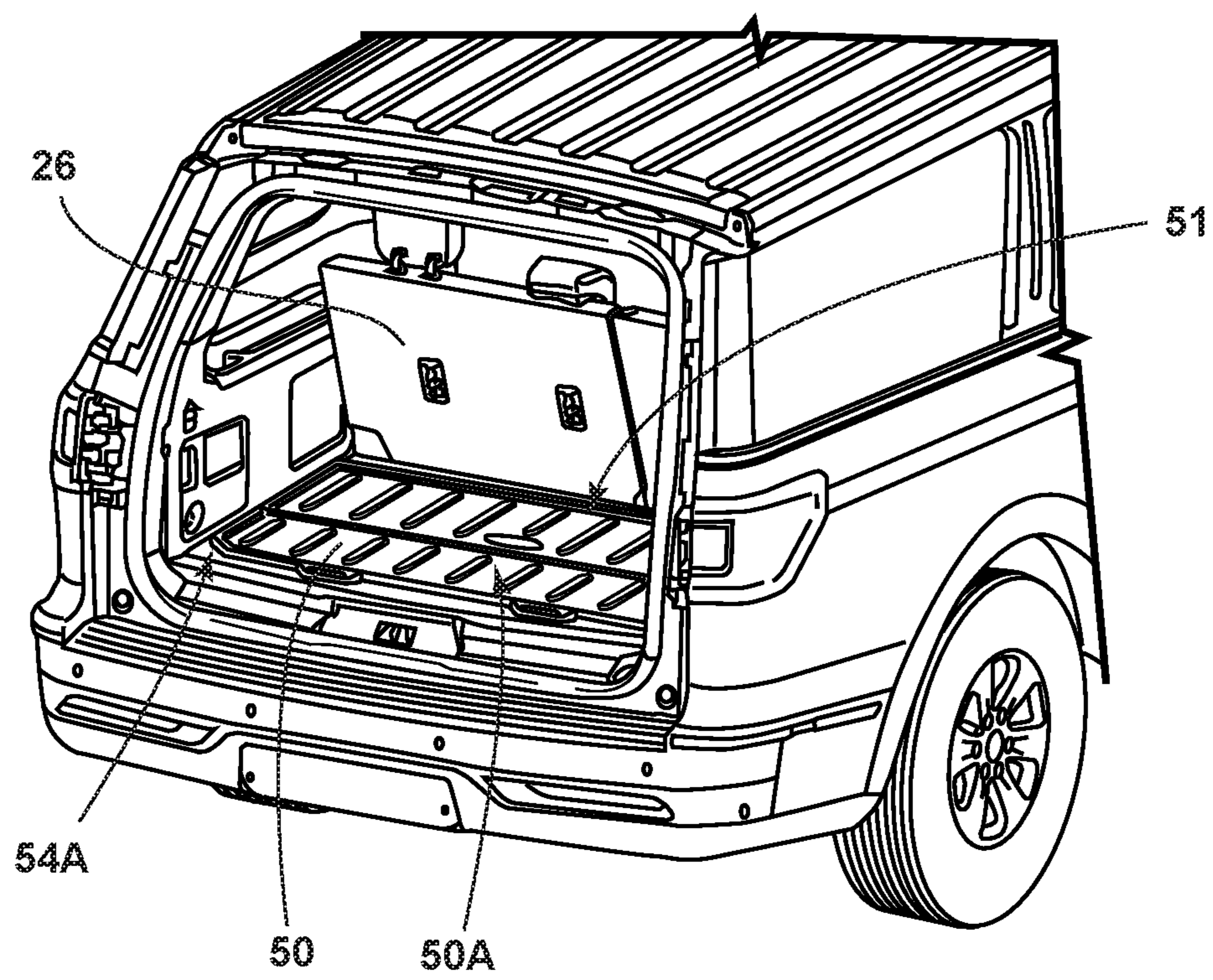
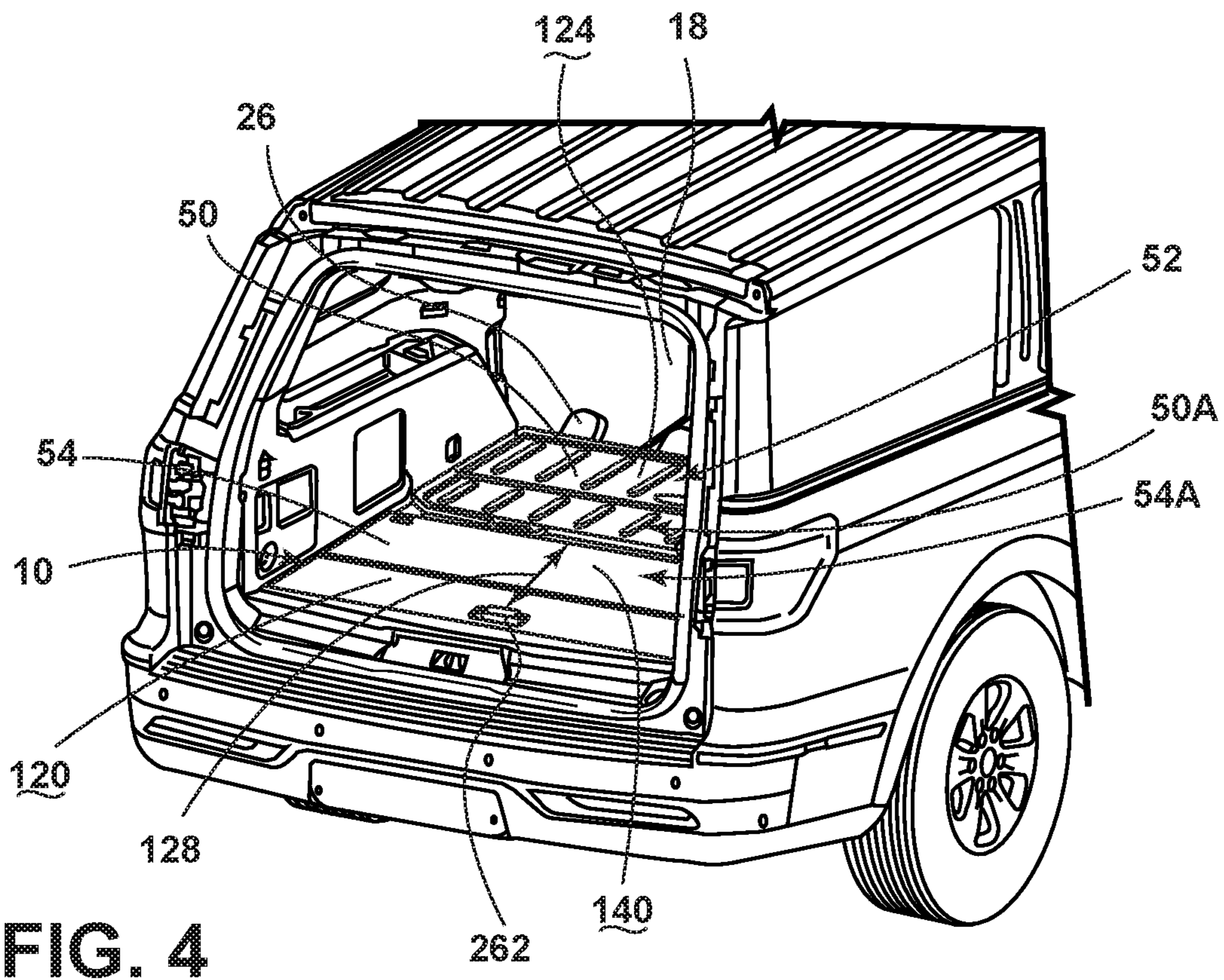
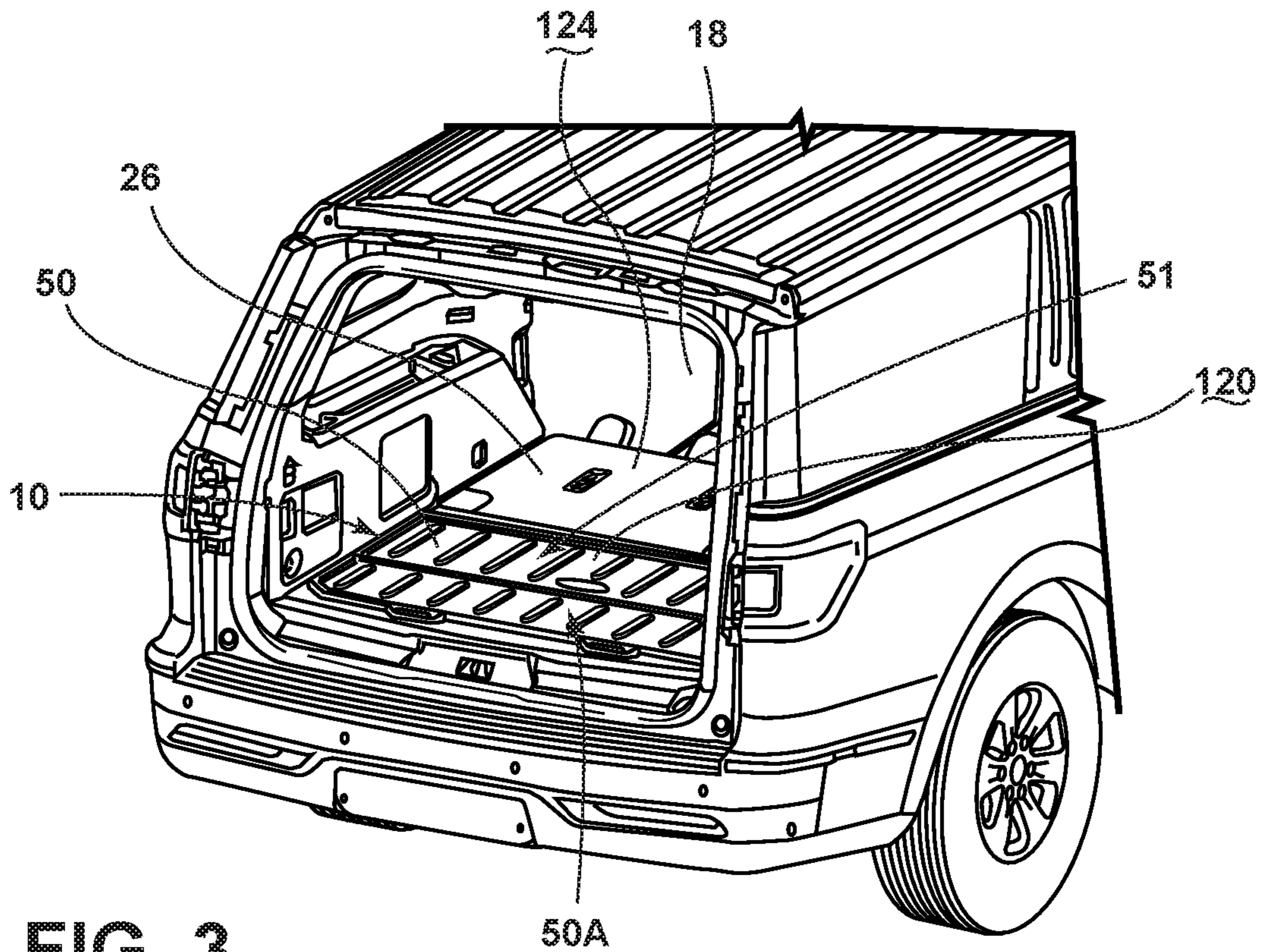


FIG. 2



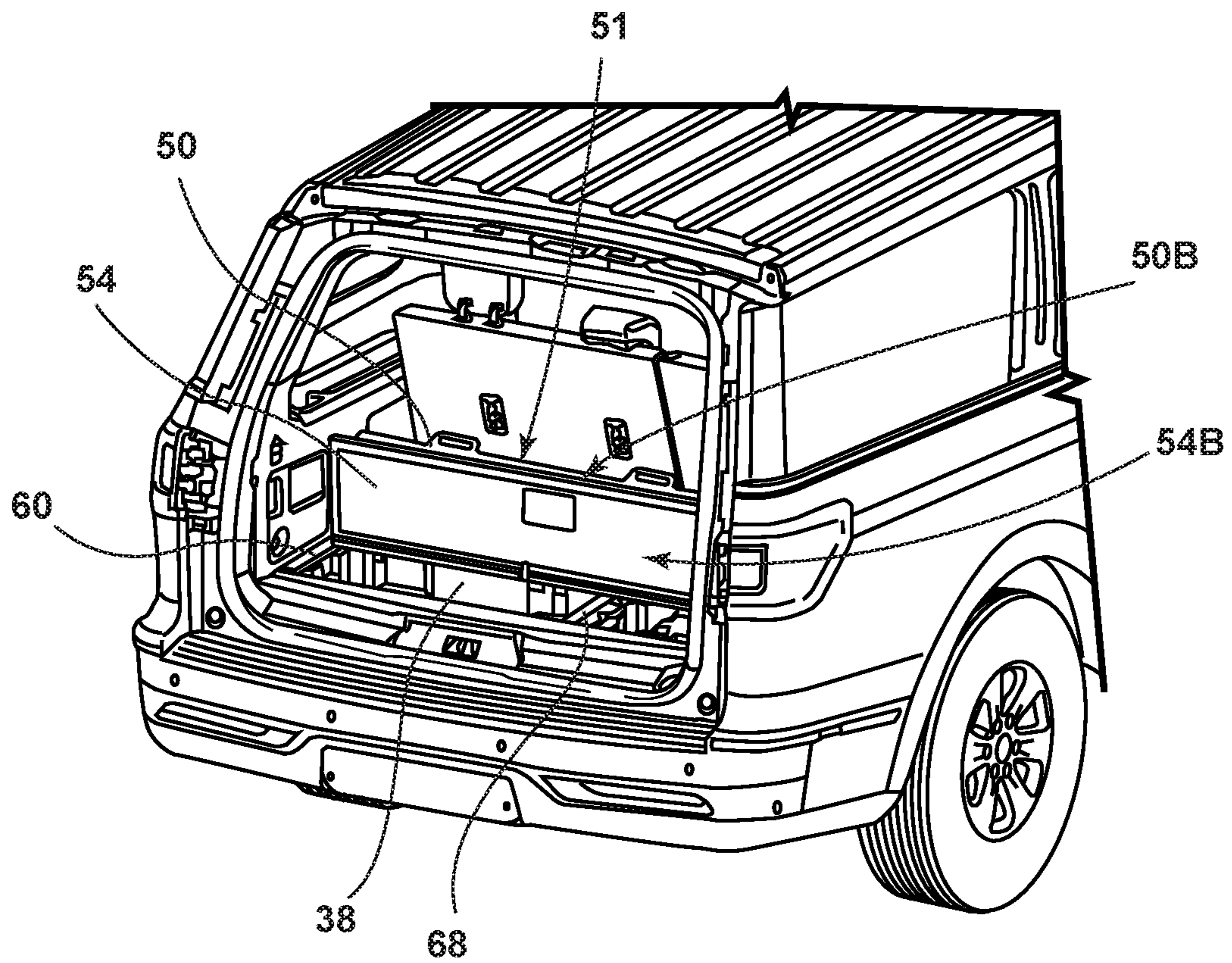


FIG. 5

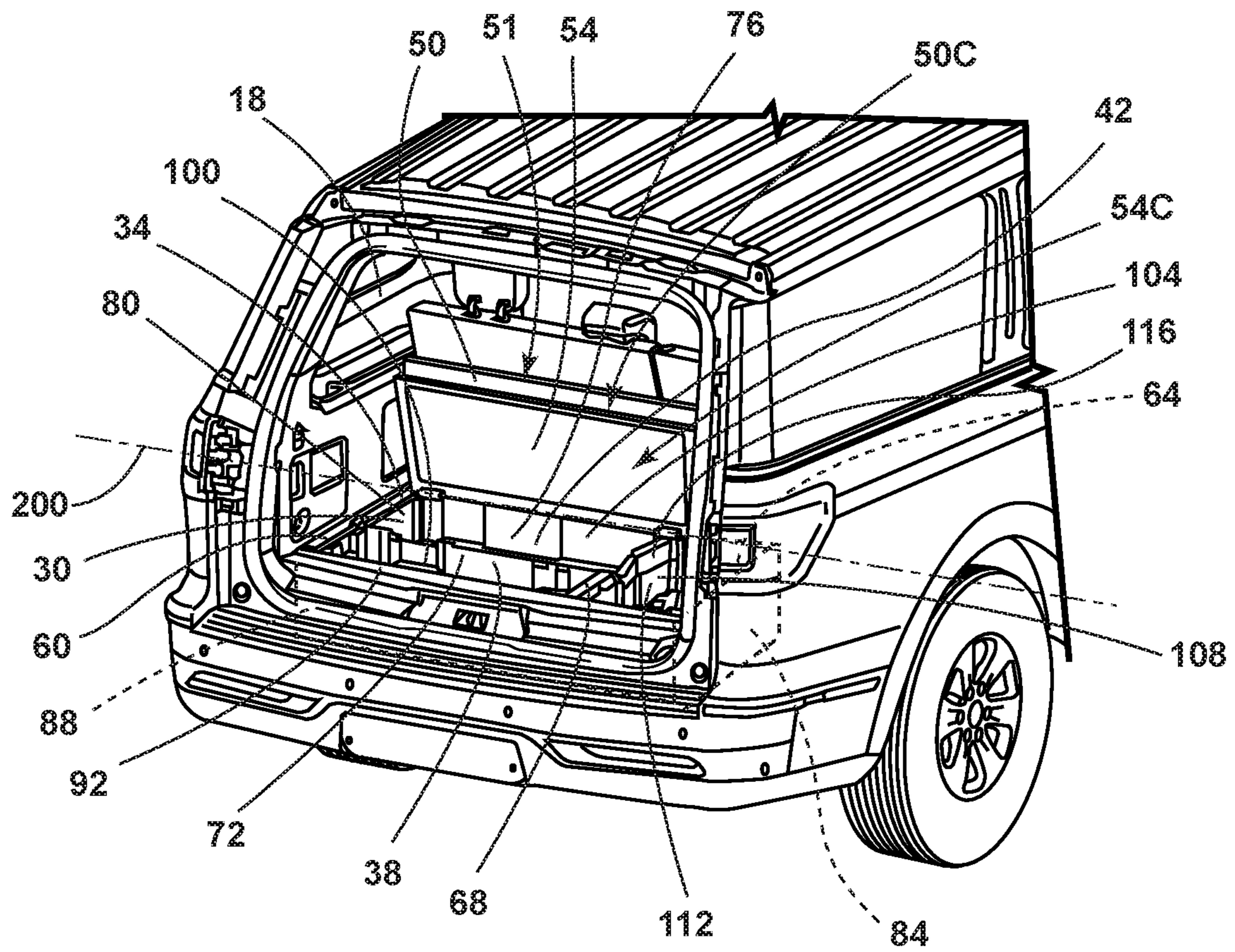


FIG. 6

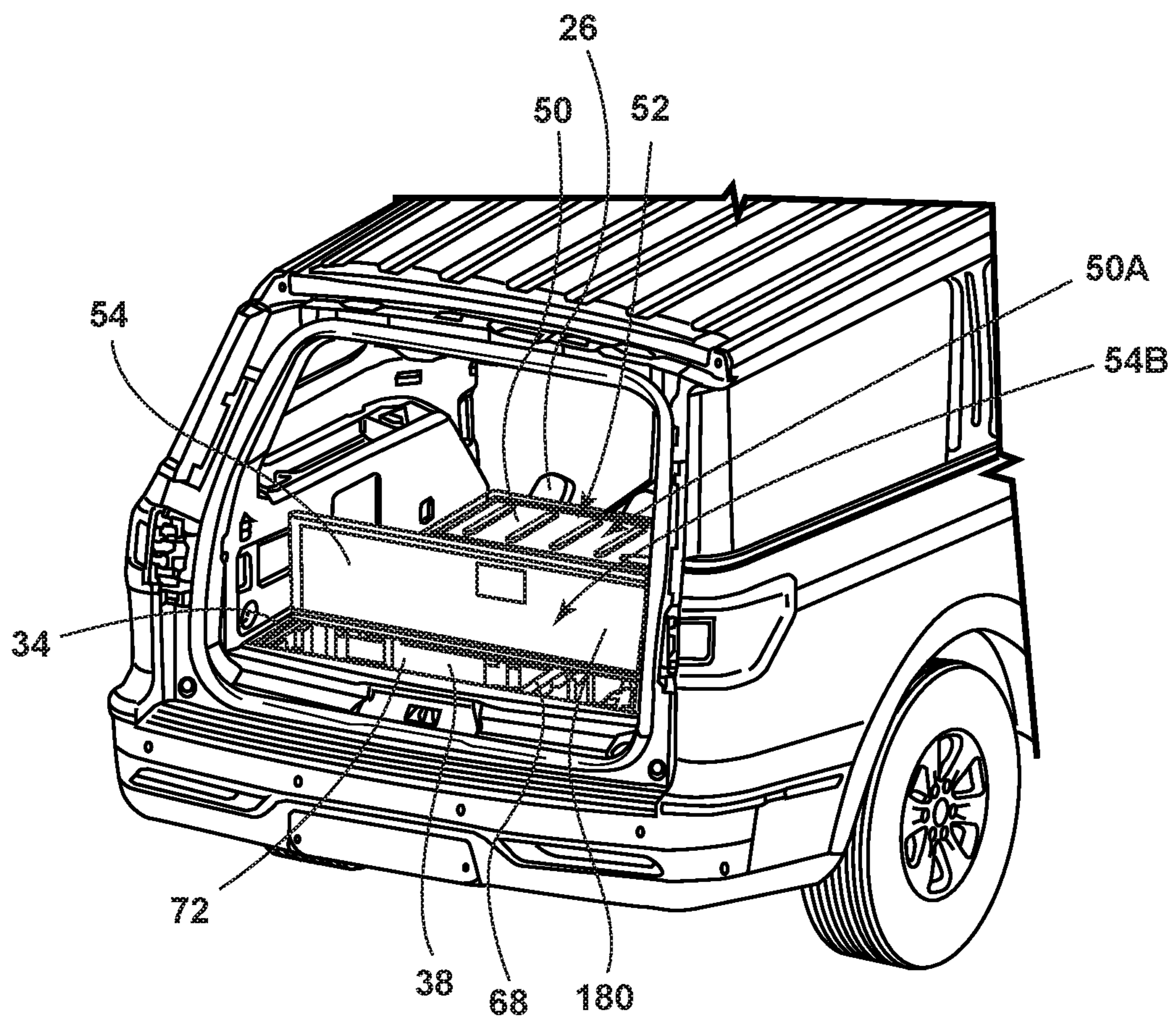


FIG. 7

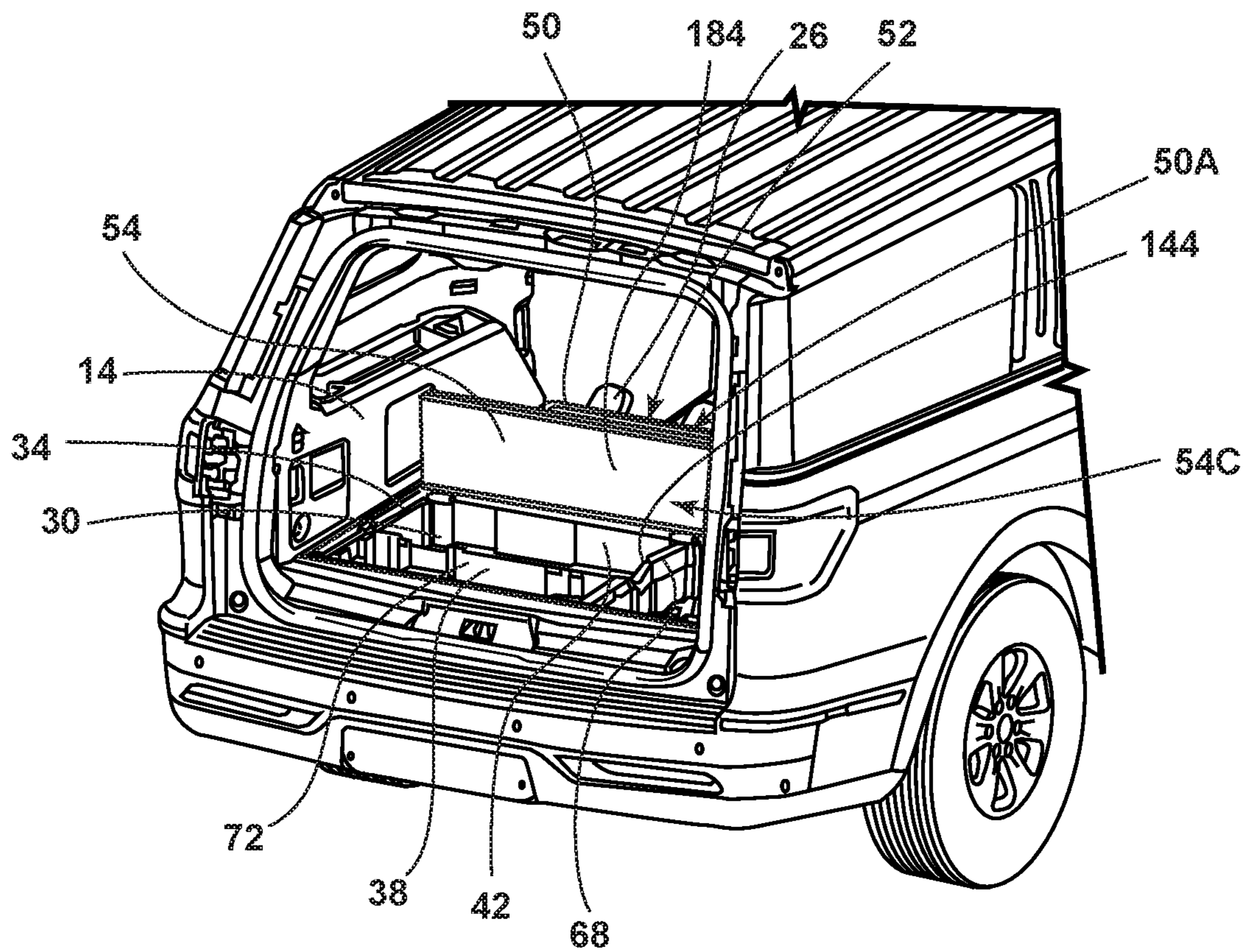


FIG. 8

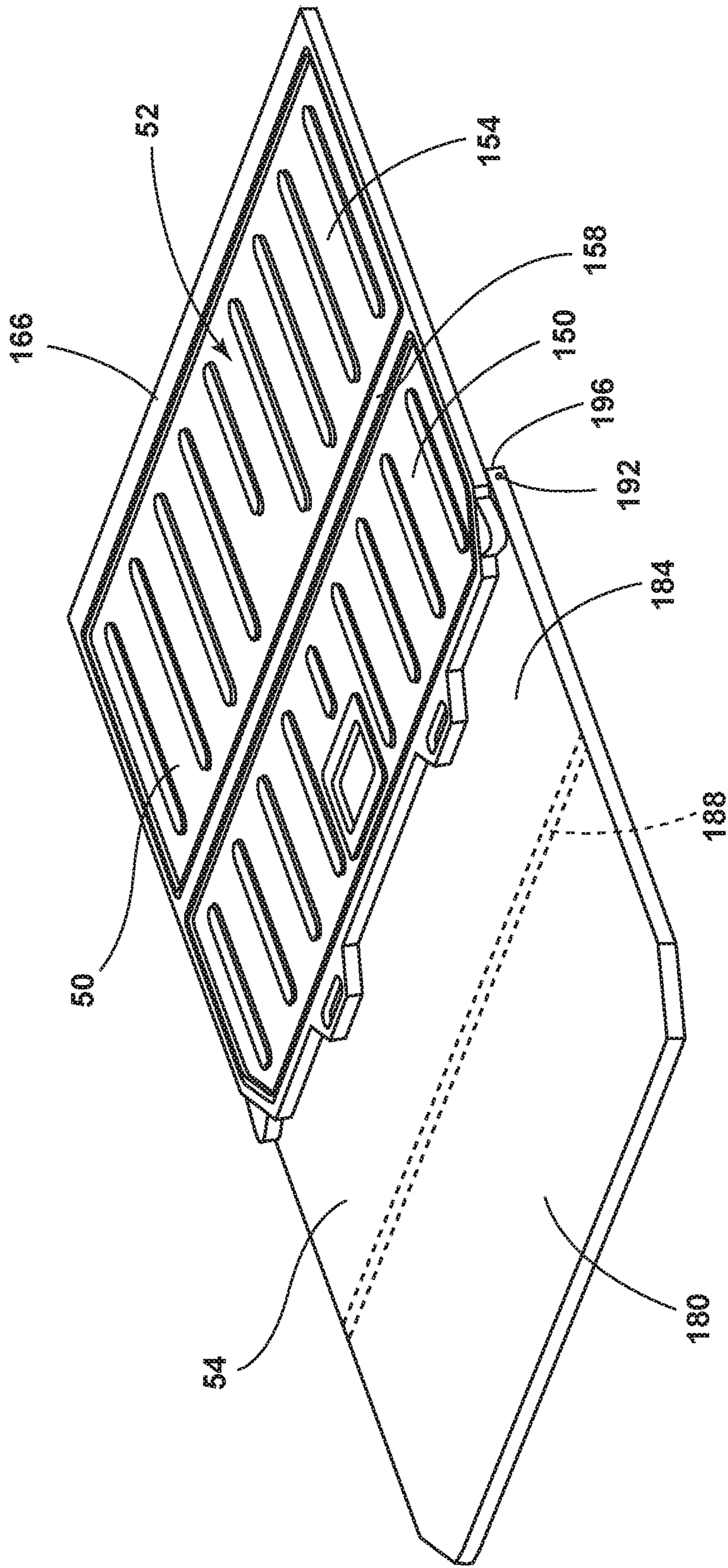


FIG. 9

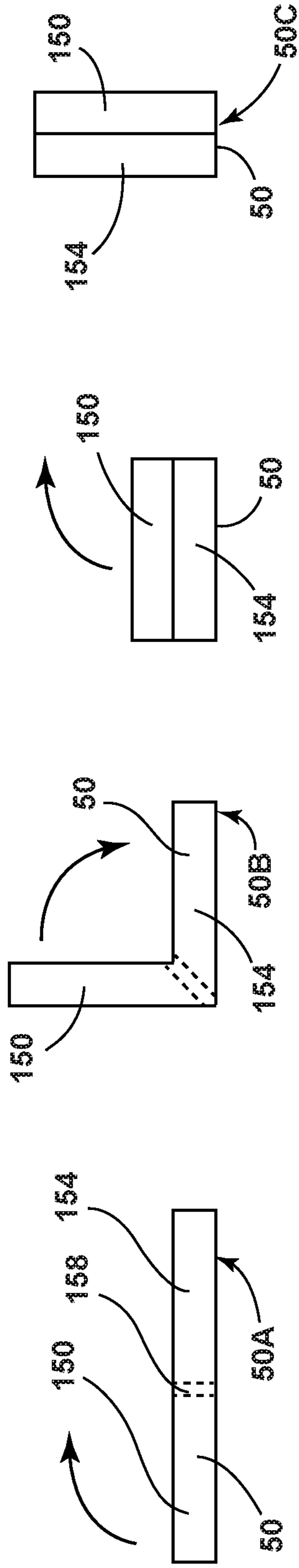


FIG. 9A

FIG. 9B

FIG. 9C

FIG. 9D

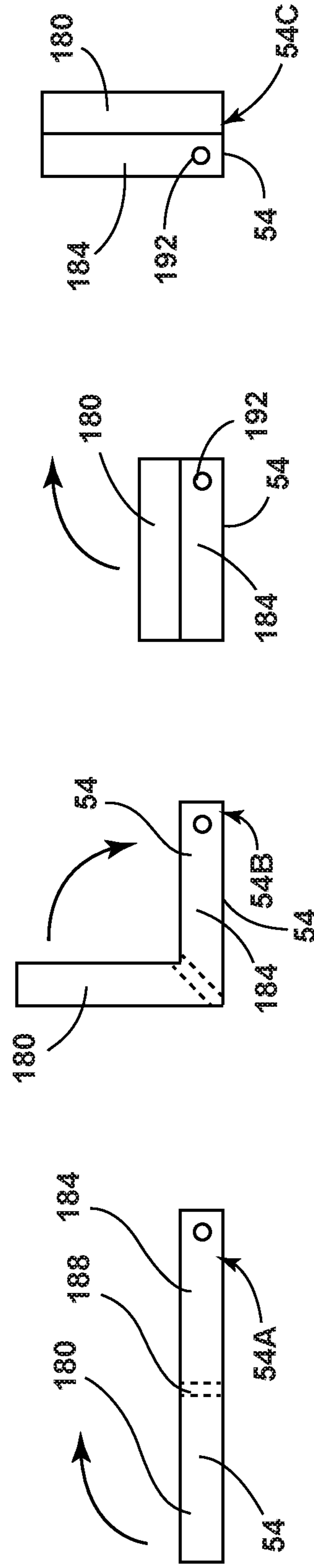


FIG. 9E

FIG. 9F

FIG. 9G

FIG. 9H

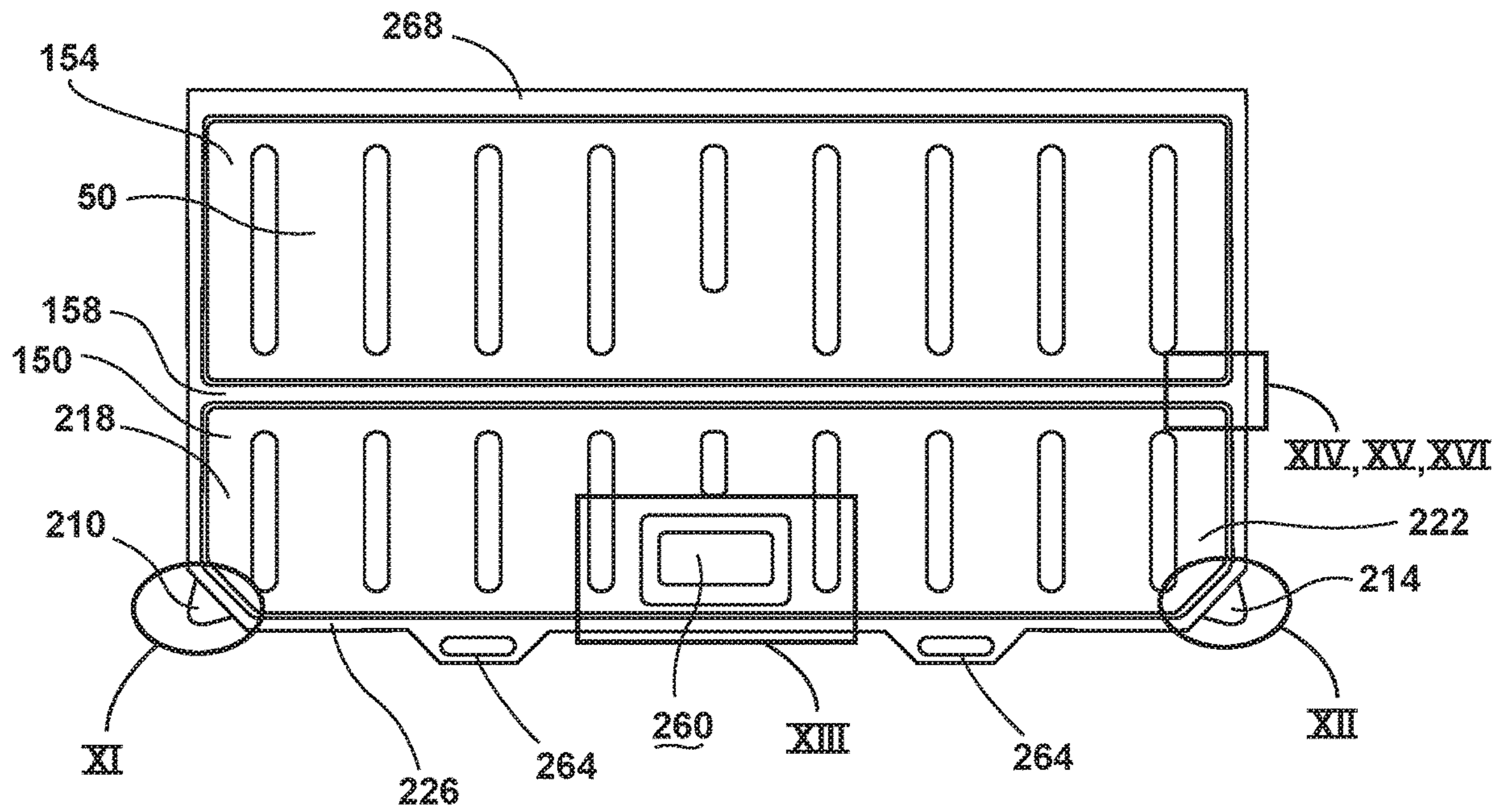


FIG. 10

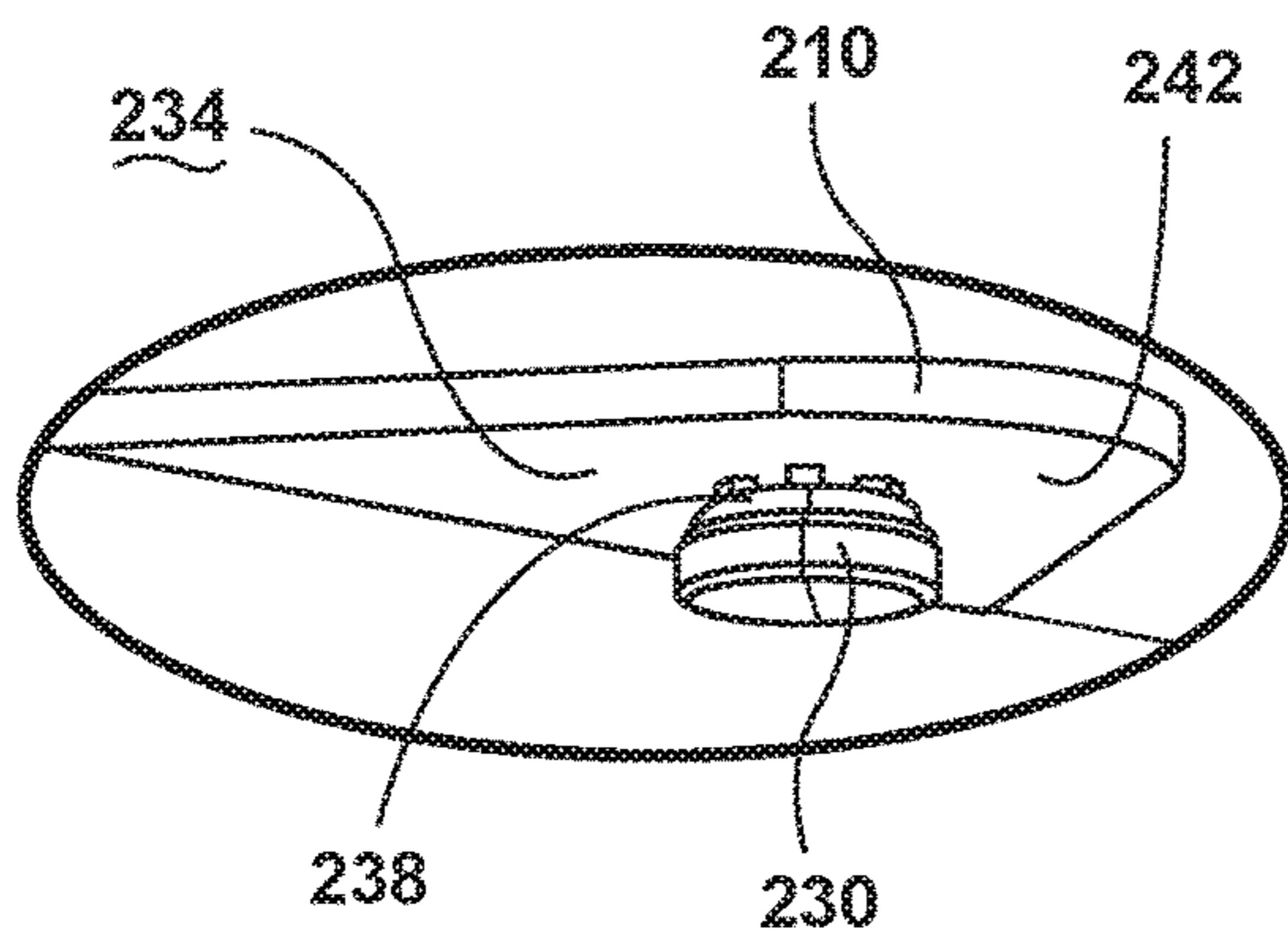


FIG. 11

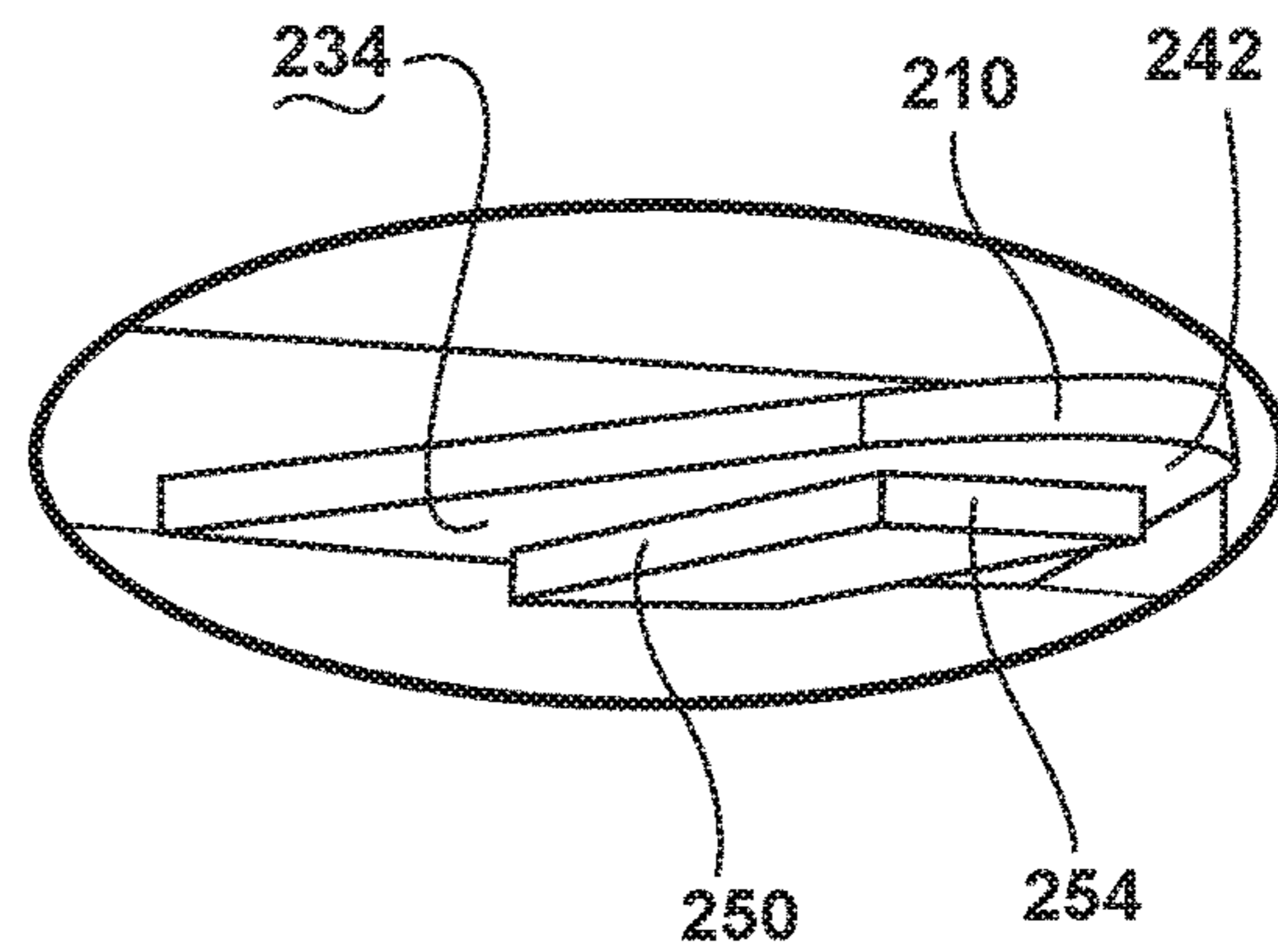


FIG. 12

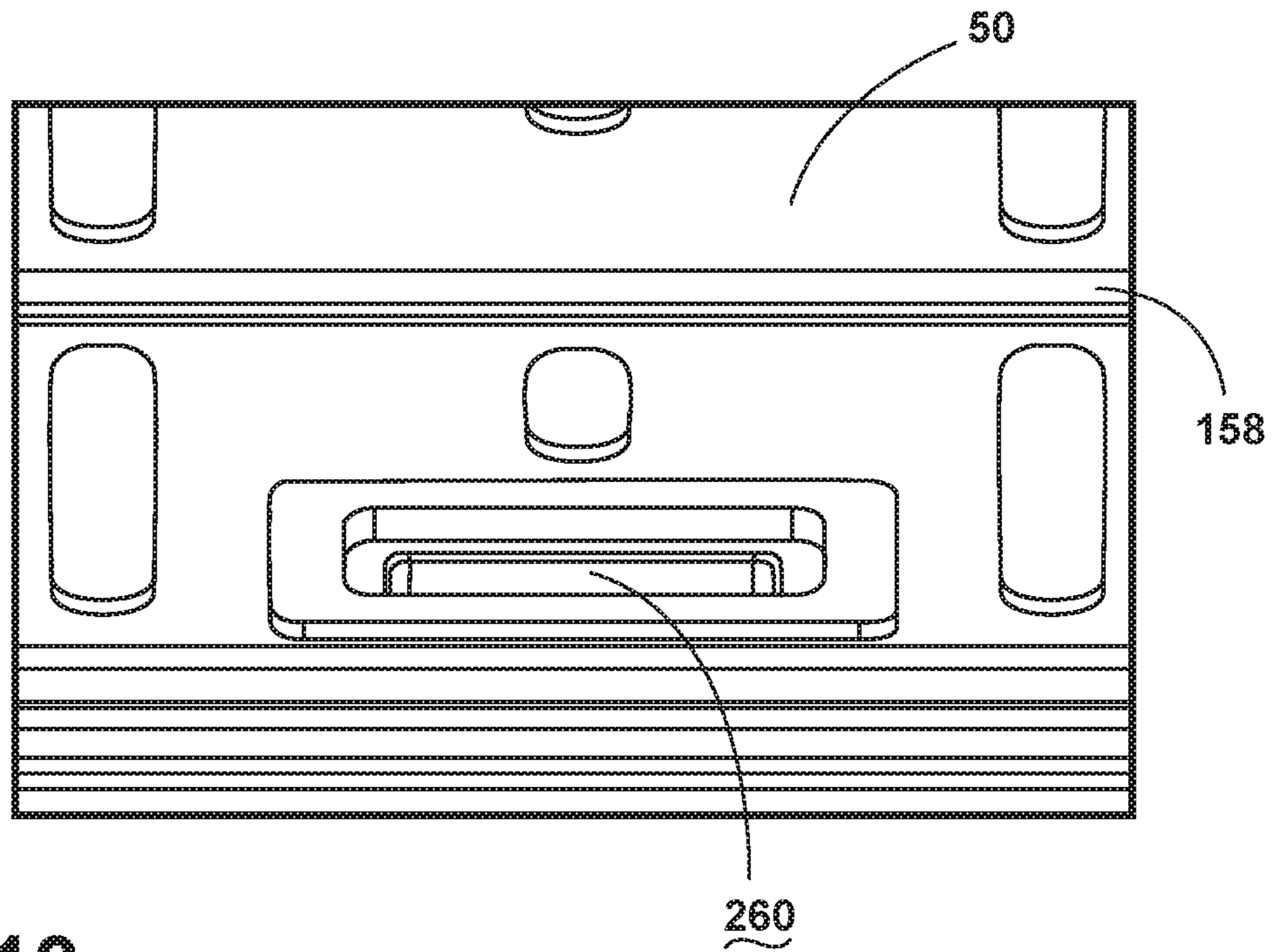


FIG. 13

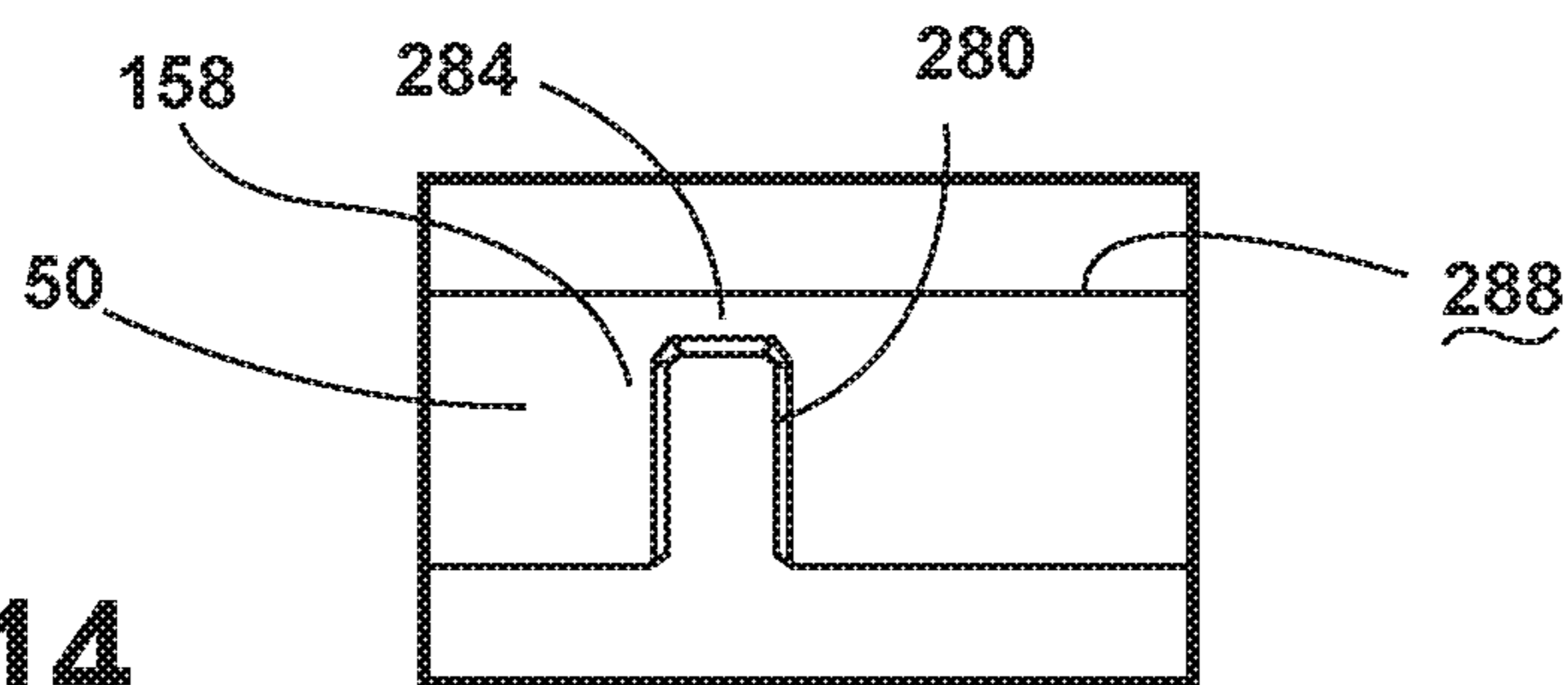


FIG. 14

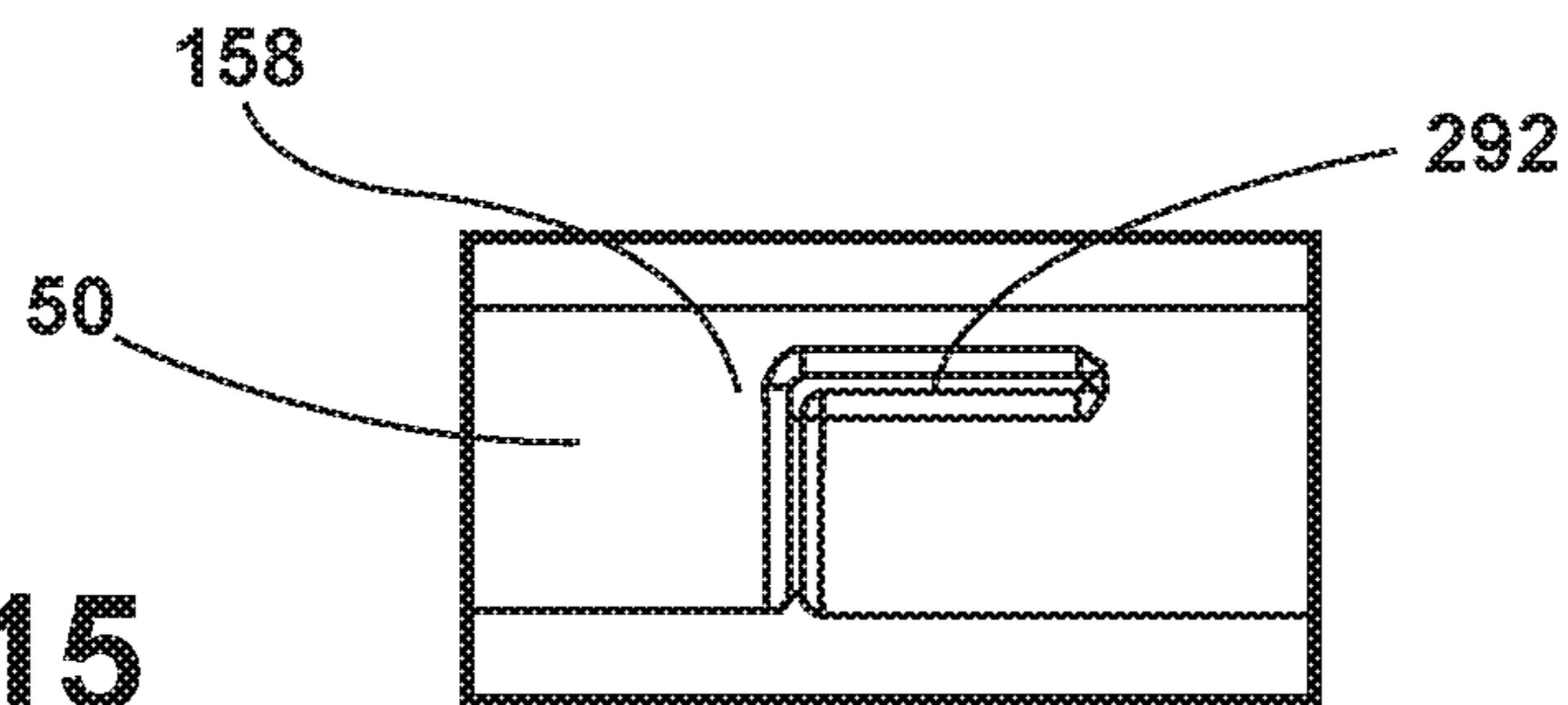


FIG. 15

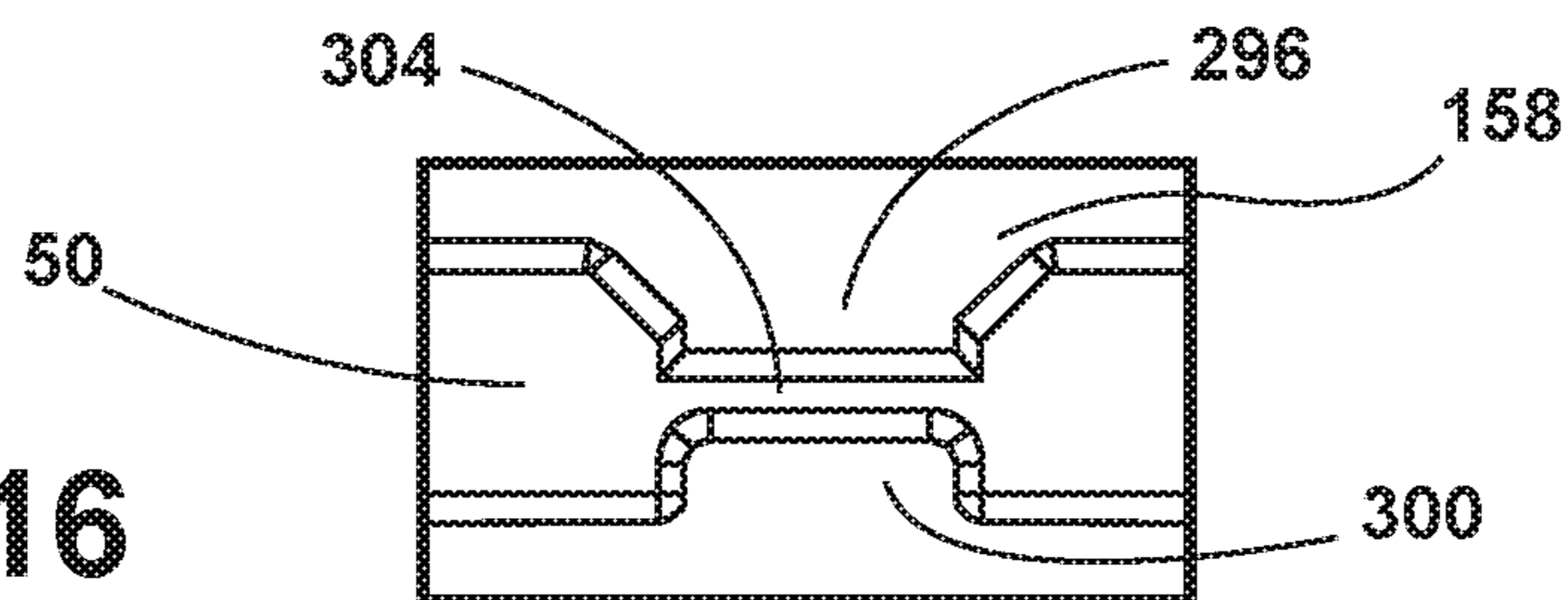


FIG. 16

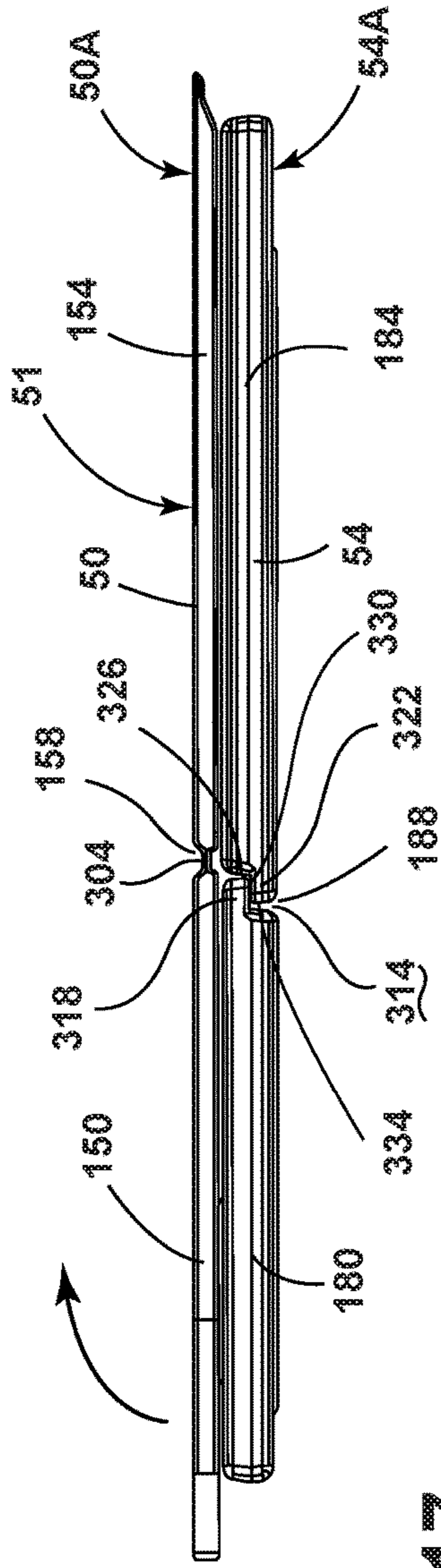


FIG. 17

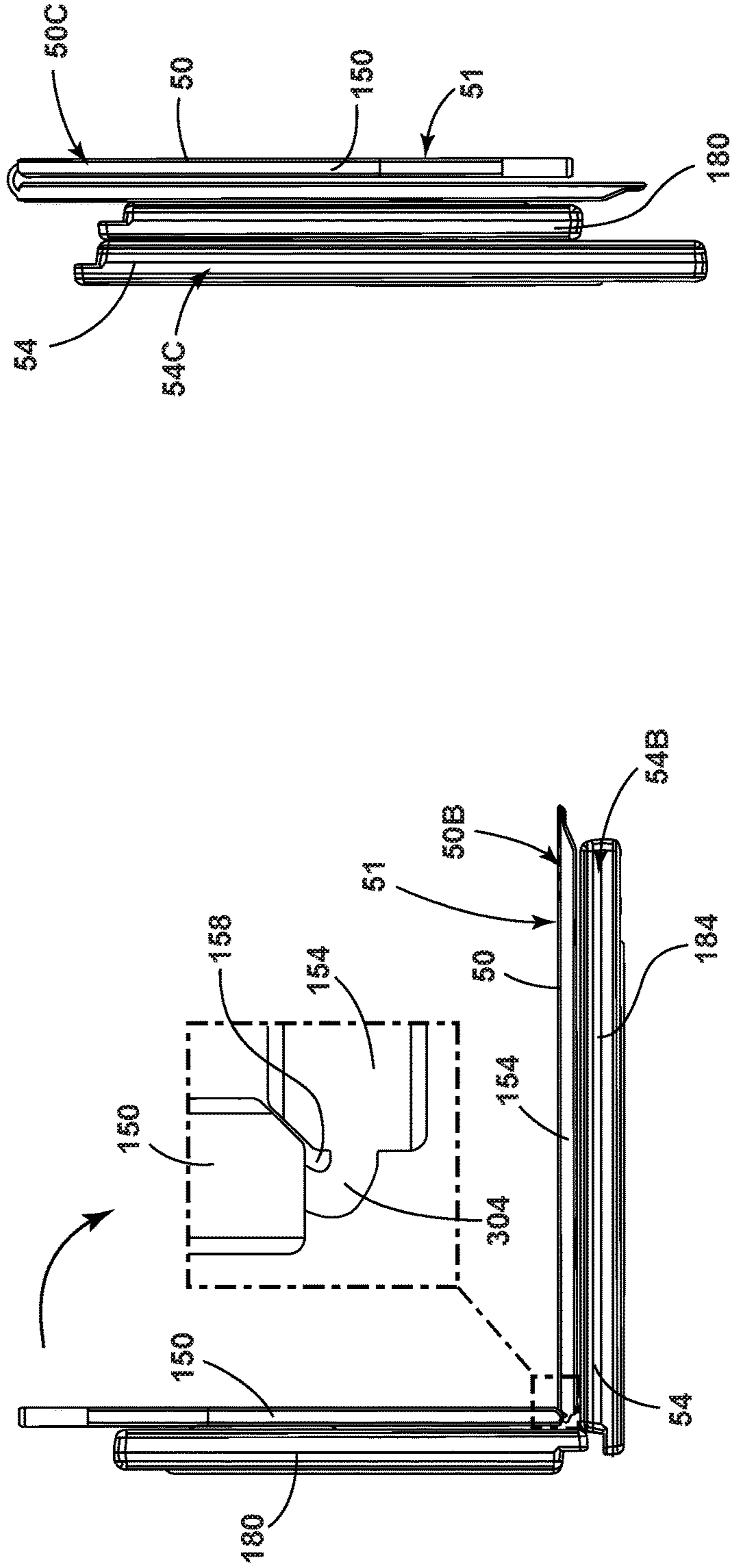


FIG. 19

FIG. 18

1**SLIDING TRAY**

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure generally relates to a cargo assembly for a vehicle, and more particularly, to a cargo assembly including adjustable panels.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

Some vehicles include extended cargo compartments in order to increase cargo carrying capacity of the vehicle. It would be beneficial to adapt an extended cargo compartment with an assembly configured to reduce loading effort. The present disclosure is intended to satisfy this need.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

According to a first aspect of the present disclosure, a vehicular cargo assembly includes a first panel slidably mounted on a floor of a vehicle cabin and selectively and alternatively positionable in a first position or a second position. A storage space is disposed below the floor. The first panel is configured to cover the storage space in the first position.

Embodiments of the first aspect of the disclosure can include any one or a combination of the following features:

a second panel disposed over the storage space and covered by the first panel when the first panel is in the first position;

when the first panel is in the first position the first panel is selectively and alternatively positionable in a flat position, a bent position, and a upright folded position; the second panel is selectively and alternatively positionable in a corresponding and respective flat orientation, a bent orientation, and a upright folded orientation; the storage space comprises a first storage space and a second storage space;

when the first panel is in the bent position and the second panel is in the bent orientation, then the first storage space is accessible;

when the first panel is in the upright folded position and the second panel is in the upright folded orientation, then the first and second storage spaces are accessible;

when the first panel is in the second position, the second panel is selectively and alternatively positionable in a flat orientation, a bent orientation, or a upright folded orientation;

when the first panel is in the second position a first portion of the second panel is rotatable from a substantially horizontal orientation to a substantially vertical orientation, so that the first portion of the second panel is orthogonal to a second portion of the second panel to allow access to a first storage space;

when the first panel is in the second position the first portion of the second panel is rotatable from the substantially vertical orientation to an inverted orientation to allow access to the first storage space and a second storage space;

the first panel includes fasteners to restrain the first panel in one or more of the first position and the second position;

the first panel comprises a thinned zone forming a bendable intersection between a first section and a second section of the first panel; and

the first panel includes a peripheral rim.

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According to a second aspect of the present disclosure, a vehicular cargo assembly includes a vehicle cabin having a floor. A portion of a vehicle forms a storage space below the floor and includes a first panel and a second panel. The first panel is slidably coupled to the second panel. The first panel moves from a first position to a second position to transfer cargo from an outer area to an inner area of the vehicle cabin. The first panel is stacked above the second panel in the first position. The first panel is adjacent the second panel in the second position.

Embodiments of the second aspect of the disclosure can include any one or a combination of the following features:

when the first panel is in the first position, then the first panel is positionable in a upright folded position and the second panel is positionable in a upright folded orientation to access the storage space;

the first panel comprises a first section and a second section, wherein the first panel is positionable in the upright folded position when the first section of the first panel is rotated from a substantially horizontal position to a substantially vertical position and from the substantially vertical position to an inverted position; and the second panel comprises a first portion and a second portion, wherein the second panel is positionable in a upright folded orientation when a first portion of the second panel is rotated from a substantially horizontal orientation to a substantially vertical orientation and from the substantially vertical orientation to an inverted orientation.

According to a third aspect of the present disclosure, a storage system for a vehicle includes a cargo area having a recessed storage space, a first panel, and a second panel. In a first position, the first and second panels are disposed over the recessed storage space. In a second position, the first panel is disposed adjacent the second panel. The first panel slides from the first to the second position.

Embodiments of the third aspect of the disclosure can include any one or a combination of the following features:

a seating assembly adjacent to the first and second panels in the first position, wherein the seating assembly is selectively positionable in an upright position and a downward position, wherein the first panel is disposed over the seating assembly in a downward position when the first panel is in the second position; and

the second panel and the seating assembly in a downward position form a substantially planar surface and wherein the first panel slides between first and second positions on the substantially planar surface.

These and other aspects, objects, and features of the present disclosure will be understood and appreciated by those skilled in the art upon studying the following specification, claims, and appended drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a vehicular cargo assembly within a vehicle cargo compartment including a first panel and a second panel in bent positions;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the vehicular cargo assembly including the first panel disposed in a first position;

FIG. 3 is a perspective of the vehicular cargo assembly including the first panel disposed in the first position with a rear seating assembly disposed in a downward position;

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FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the vehicular cargo assembly including the first panel disposed in a second position with the rear seating assembly disposed in the downward position;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the vehicular cargo assembly including the first panel in a bent position and the second panel in a bent position;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the vehicular cargo assembly including the first panel in a upright folded position and the second panel in a upright folded position;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the vehicular cargo assembly including the first panel in a second position and the second panel in the bent position with the rear seating assembly disposed in the downward position;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of the vehicular cargo assembly including the first panel in the second position and the second panel in a upright folded position with the rear seating assembly disposed in the downward position;

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of the first and second panels with the first panel in the second position;

FIG. 9A is a schematic cross-sectional view of the first panel in a flat position;

FIG. 9B is a schematic cross-sectional view of the first panel in a bent position;

FIG. 9C is a schematic cross-sectional view of the first panel in a folded position;

FIG. 9D is a schematic cross-sectional view of the first panel in the upright folded position;

FIG. 9E is a schematic cross-sectional view of the second panel in a flat orientation;

FIG. 9F is a schematic cross-sectional view of the second panel in a bent orientation;

FIG. 9G is a schematic cross-sectional view of the second panel in a folded orientation;

FIG. 9H is a schematic cross-sectional view of the second panel in the upright folded orientation;

FIG. 10 is a top elevational view of the first panel;

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of a tab with a push pin from detail XI shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 12 is a perspective view of a tab with a hook-and-loop portion from detail XII shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of a cutaway portion of the first panel from detail XIII shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 14 is a cross-sectional view of a first variant of a thinned zone of the first panel from detail XIV shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 15 is a cross-sectional view of a second variant of a thinned zone of the first panel from detail XV shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 16 is a cross-sectional view of a third variant of a thinned zone of the first panel from detail XVI shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 17 is a side elevational view of the first panel in the flat position and the second panel in the flat orientation of an exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 18 is a side elevational view of the first panel in the bent position and the second panel in the bent orientation of an exemplary embodiment; and

FIG. 19 is a side elevational view of the first panel in the upright folded position and the second panel in the upright folded orientation of an exemplary embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

For purposes of description herein, the terms “upper,” “lower,” “right,” “left,” “rear,” “front,” “vertical,” “horizon-

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tal,” “interior,” “exterior,” and derivatives thereof shall relate to the disclosure as oriented in FIG. 1. However, it is to be understood that the disclosure may assume various alternative orientations, except where expressly specified to the contrary. It is also to be understood that the specific devices and processes illustrated in the attached drawings, and described in the following specification are simply exemplary embodiments of the inventive concepts defined in the appended claims. Hence, specific dimensions and other physical characteristics relating to the embodiments disclosed herein are not to be considered as limiting, unless the claims expressly state otherwise.

The following disclosure describes a cargo assembly for a vehicle, and in particular, a cargo assembly including at least a first panel and a second panel adapted to facilitate the loading and unloading of cargo to and from a vehicle cargo compartment. The first panel may be a sliding tray. The sliding tray may be disposed at an outer area of the vehicle cargo compartment in a first position, and the sliding tray may be disposed at an inner area of a vehicle cargo compartment in a second position. In the first or stacked position, the first panel may be disposed on top of the second panel. In the second or adjacent position, the first panel may be disposed adjacent the second panel. The second panel may be a cover for a storage area beneath the cabin floor. The cover may remain stationary at the outer area of the vehicle cargo compartment as the tray moves between the first and second positions to transfer cargo between the outer and the inner areas of the cargo compartment. In this way the cargo assembly enables an individual to load cargo further into the cargo compartment without having to extend their body into the vehicle cabin. As such, the cargo assembly reduces the potential for strain and injury while loading and unloading cargo within the vehicle.

In addition to providing a first panel or a sliding tray for convenient transfer of cargo in the vehicle cargo compartment, the first panel or tray and the second panel or cover may be configured to allow access to a storage space disposed under a cabin floor. The first panel (tray) may be generally planar and may be foldable between a flat position, a bent position, and an upright folded position. Similarly, the second panel (cover) may be generally planar and may be foldable between a flat orientation, a bent orientation, and an upright folded orientation. The storage space disposed below the cabin floor may include a first storage space and a second storage space. The first panel and the second panel may be configured to selectively access various portions of the storage space. For example, the first and second panels may be configured to access the first storage space or the first and second storage spaces. As such, an individual may conveniently utilize the slidable tray (first panel) while accessing the storage space disposed below the cabin floor.

Referring to FIGS. 1-9, reference numeral 10 generally designates a vehicular cargo assembly as shown within a cargo compartment 14 of a vehicle cabin 18. The cargo compartment 14 may be generally adapted for the storing of cargo items within the vehicle cabin 18. The vehicle 22 may be any vehicle 22 having an open cabin 18 with extendable cargo space for storing additional cargo items. However, the vehicle 22 may additionally be any vehicle 22 having a traditional trunk space for storing cargo items. The vehicle 22 may include a rear seating assembly 26 positioned forward relative to the cargo compartment 14. The rear seating assembly 26 may be adjustable between an upright position (FIGS. 1, 2, 5, and 6) and a downward position (FIGS. 3, 4, 7, and 8). The vehicle 22 may include a cargo door (not shown) configured to enable access to the cargo

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compartment **14** while in an open position. Storage space **30** may be disposed below a cabin floor **34**. The storage space **30** includes a first storage space **38** and a second storage space **42**.

With continued reference to FIGS. **1-9**, the cargo assembly **10** may include a first panel **50** and a second panel **54** disposed within the cargo compartment **14** of the vehicle cabin **18**. Each of the first and second panels **50**, **54** may be generally planar in configuration, and may be composed of a damage or scratch resistant material. For example, the first and second panels **50**, **54** may be composed of acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polycarbonate, or other damage resistant thermoplastic materials. In another example, the first panel **50** may be made of a plastic (e.g., acrylonitrile (ABS), polycarbonate, or other damage resistant thermoplastic material), and the second panel **54** may be made of carbon fiber or a similar material. As previously stated, the first panel **50** may be a slidable tray and the second panel **54** may be a cover. The second panel **54** or cover may be disposed over the storage space **30**. The second panel **54** or cover may include a typical vehicle cabin **18** floor material such as a carpet disposed over a structural component. The first panel **50** may be adjusted relative to the second panel **54** in a first position **51** (stacked position) or a second position **52** (adjacent position). The first panel **50** in the first position **51** is shown in FIGS. **1-3** and **5-6**. The first panel **50** in the second position **52** is shown in FIGS. **4**, **7**, and **8**. When the first panel **50** is in the first position **51** or the second position **52**, the first panel **50** and the second panel **54** may be configured to access the storage space **30** beneath the cabin floor **34**. The first panel **50** may be adjusted between a flat position **50A** (FIGS. **2-4** and **7-8**), a bent position **50B** (FIGS. **1** and **5**), and an upright folded position **50C** (FIG. **6**). The second panel **54** may be adjusted between a flat orientation **54A** (FIGS. **2-4**), a bent orientation **54B** (FIGS. **1**, **5**, and **7**), or an upright folded orientation **54C** (FIGS. **6** and **8**). When the first panel **50** is in the second position **52**, it may be disposed over the rear seating assembly **26** disposed in the downward position (FIGS. **4**, **7**, **8**).

Referring now to FIG. **6**, a cabin floor **34** may support the first and second panels **50**, **54** and may suspend the first and second panels **50**, **54** above the storage space **30**. The storage space **30** may be disposed beneath the cabin floor **34**. In various aspects, first and second supporting ledges **60**, **64** disposed on either side of a vehicle cabin **18** or trunk (not shown) may define the cabin floor **34**. Additionally or alternatively, various supporting members disposed between the first and second supporting ledges **60**, **64** may define the cabin floor **34**. In the depicted aspect, the longitudinal support member **68** may be disposed between the first and second supporting ledges **60**, **64** and may be generally parallel to the first and second supporting ledges **60**, **64**. In the depicted aspect, first and second lateral support members **72**, **76** may be disposed between the first and second supporting ledges **60**, **64** and may be generally transverse to the first and second supporting ledges **60**, **64**. As such, the cabin floor **34** may be defined by structures that support the first and second panels **50**, **54**.

With continued reference to FIG. **6**, the storage space **30** disposed beneath the cabin floor **34** may be subdivided and selectively accessible. The storage space **30** may be generally defined by the first and second body portions **80**, **84** extending below the respective first and second supporting ledges **60**, **64**, a body portion **88** extending below a loading ledge **92**, the second lateral support member **76**, and a bottom portion (not shown). In the aspect shown, the storage space **30** may be divided into a first compartment **100**, a

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second compartment **104**, and a third compartment **108**. The first compartment **100** may be defined by the first body portion **80** below the first supporting ledge **60**, the longitudinal support member **68**, the body portion **88** below the loading ledge **92**, the first lateral support member **72**, and the bottom portion (not shown). The second compartment **104** may be defined by the first body portion **80** below the first supporting ledge **60**, the longitudinal support member **68**, the first lateral support member **72**, the second lateral support member **76**, and the bottom portion (not shown).

With continued reference to FIG. **6**, the third compartment **108** may be defined by the longitudinal support member **68**, the second body portion **84** below the second supporting ledge **64**, the body portion **88** below the loading ledge **92**, the second lateral support member **76**, and the bottom portion (not shown). The third compartment **108** may include an outer portion **112** and an inner portion **116**. The first storage space **38** may include the first compartment **100** and an outer portion **112** of the third compartment **108**. The second storage space **42** may include the second compartment **104** and an inner portion **116** of the third compartment **108**. As such, in various aspects of the disclosure, compartments in the storage space **30** may be arranged in various configurations. Fewer than three or more than three compartments may be disposed in the storage space. The compartments may have different features. For example, one storage compartment may be cooled by the vehicle air conditioning system. Another storage compartment may contain a light source for illuminating the compartment at night. Thus, the storage space **30** may be customized.

Referring now to FIGS. **2-4**, first, second, and third steps that may be used for transferring the first panel **50** from the first position **51** to the second position **52** are shown. Referring to FIG. **2**, in the first step, the first panel **50** is shown in the first position **51** and the rear seating assembly **26** is shown in the upright position. Referring to FIG. **3**, in the second step the first panel **50** is shown in the first position **51** and the rear seating assembly **26** is shown in the downward position. Referring to FIG. **4**, in the third step the rear seating assembly **26** is shown in the downward position and the first panel **50** is shown in the second position **52**. When the rear seating assembly **26** is disposed in the downward position, the seating assembly **26** and the second panel **54** may form a substantially planar surface **140** over which the first panel **50** may slide between the first and second positions **51**, **52** (FIG. **4**). Arrow **128** in FIG. **4** shows the directions in which the first panel **50** may slide.

Regardless of whether the first and second panels **50**, **54** of the cargo assembly **10** are disposed in the stacked configuration (first panel **50** in first position **51**) or the adjacent configuration (first panel **50** in second position **52**), access to the storage space **30** may be available. With reference to FIGS. **5** and **6**, when the first panel **50** is in the first position **51**, the first storage space **38** (FIG. **5**) or the first and second storage spaces **38**, **42** (FIG. **6**) may be accessible. As shown in FIG. **5**, when the first panel **50** is in the first position **51**, the first storage space **38** may be accessed by configuring the first panel **50** in the bent position **50B** and by configuring the second panel **54** in the bent orientation **54B**. As shown in FIG. **6**, when the first panel **50** is in the first position **51**, the first and second storage spaces **38**, **42** may be accessed by configuring the first panel **50** in an upright folded position **50C** and configuring the second panel **54** in an upright folded orientation **54C**.

With reference to FIGS. **7** and **8**, when the first panel **50** is in the second position **52**, the first storage space **38** (FIG. **7**) or the first and second storage spaces **38**, **42** (FIG. **8**) may

be accessible. As shown in FIG. 7, when the first panel 50 is in a second position 52, then the first storage space 38 may be accessed by configuring the second panel 54 in the bent orientation 54B. As shown in FIG. 8, when the first panel 50 is in the second position 52, then the first and second storage spaces 38, 42 may be accessed by configuring the second panel 54 in an upright folded orientation 54C. As such, the second panel 54 may provide selective access to the first and second storage spaces 38, 42.

With further reference to FIGS. 7 and 8, it may be desirable that the cabin floor 34 provide clearance for the second panel 54 in the bent orientation 54B (FIG. 7). Therefore, the longitudinal support member 68 may include a clearance notch 144 (FIG. 8) for positioning the second panel 54 in a bent orientation 54B (FIG. 7).

The first panel 50 and the second panel 54 may include various features that may facilitate convenient configuration of the first panel 50 and the second panel 54. In FIG. 9, the first panel 50 is shown in the second position 52 relative to the second panel 54 (i.e., the first panel 50 is shown adjacent to the second panel 54). The first panel 50 may include a first section 150 and a second section 154 disposed on either side of a bendable intersection 158. The second panel 54 may include a first portion 180 and a second portion 184. The first portion 180 and the second portion 184 may be disposed on either side of a bendable intersection 188 of the second panel 54. The second panel 54 may include a pivoting connection 192 at an outer edge 196 of the second portion 184. The pivoting connection 192 may allow the second panel 54 to rotate around an axis of rotation 200 (FIG. 6) generally disposed above the second lateral support member 76.

Referring now to FIGS. 9A-9H, the first panel 50 and the second panel 54 are shown in a variety of configurations. For example, the first panel 50 is shown in the flat 50A, bent 50B, and upright folded 50C positions, and the second panel 54 is shown in the flat 54A, bent 54B, and upright folded 54C orientations. In FIG. 9A, the first section 150 of the first panel 50 may be rotated from a horizontal position to a vertical position in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. 9A. In FIG. 9B, the first panel 50 is in the bent position 50B. The first section 150 is shown in a vertical position that may be orthogonal to the horizontal position of second section 154. The first section 150 may be rotatable from the vertical position to the folded position in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. 9B. FIG. 9C shows the first section 150 and the second section 154 in a folded position. The first and second sections 150 and 154 in the folded position may be rotated in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. 9C. FIG. 9D shows the first panel 50 in the upright folded position 50C. The first section 150 is shown in an inverted position.

FIG. 9E is a schematic view of the second panel 54 in a flat orientation 54A. The first portion 180 of the second panel 54 may be rotated from a horizontal orientation to a vertical orientation in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. 9E. In FIG. 9F, the second panel 54 is in the bent orientation 54B. The first portion 180 is shown in a vertical orientation that may be orthogonal to the horizontal orientation of the second portion 184. The first portion 180 may be rotatable from the vertical orientation to the folded orientation in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. 9F. FIG. 9G shows the first portion 180 and the second portion 184 in a folded orientation. The first and second portions 180 and 184 in the folded orientation may be rotated about the pivoting connection 192 in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. 9G. FIG. 9H shows the second panel 54 in the upright folded orientation 54C. The first portion 180 is shown in an inverted orientation. As such, FIGS. 9A-9H

provide detail about the movement of the first and second panels 50, 54 between the flat position 50A and the upright folded position 50C for the first panel 50 and between the flat orientation 54A and the upright folded orientation 54C for the second panel 54.

Referring to FIGS. 9-10, in various aspects of the disclosure, it may be desirable to secure the first panel 50 (and cargo that may be loaded on the first panel 50) in the first position 51 or the second position 52 to minimize movement of the first panel 50 during driving conditions that may include stops, acceleration, uneven terrain, and vehicle impacts. The first panel 50 may include at least a first attachment tab 210 and a second attachment tab 214 configured to mount the first panel 50 to the cabin floor 34 or the second panel 54. The first and second attachment tabs 210, 214 may extend from the first panel 50 at first and second corners 218, 222 of the rear peripheral edge 226. Each of the first and second attachment tabs 210, 214 may be adapted as a flat extension or foot of the first panel 50 and may be integral with the first panel 50 or attached via an attachment assembly. Each of the first and second attachment tabs 210, 214 may be comprised of an impact resistant plastic or metal.

Referring to FIG. 10, the first panel 50 may include a peripheral rim 268 to retain cargo items in the first panel 50. The peripheral rim 268 may assist in keeping cargo within the first panel 50 while the first panel 50 is moved between the first and second positions 51, 52 and while the vehicle 22 is in motion.

In various aspects, the first panel 50 may include features that assist an individual in moving the first panel 50 between the first and second positions 51, 52 and in accessing the storage space 30 disposed below the cabin floor 34. With continued reference to FIG. 10, a cutaway portion 260 may be disposed in the first panel 50 to provide access to a handle 262 (FIG. 4) that may be disposed on the second panel 54 when the first and second panels 50, 54 are in the stacked configuration (i.e., first panel 50 is in the first position 51). Grab handles 264 may be located on the rear peripheral edge 226 of the first panel 50 to allow an individual to easily push the first panel 50 away from the outer area 120 of the vehicle cabin 18 and into the inner area 124 of the vehicle cabin 18 and to pull the first panel 50 from the inner area 124 of the vehicle cabin 18 towards the outer area 120 of the vehicle cabin 18 during cargo transfer (FIGS. 3-4).

With reference to FIGS. 10-11, a rounded snap-fitting pin 230 may extend from a bottom surface 234 of each of the first and second attachment tabs 210, 214. FIG. 11 is from detail XI shown in FIG. 10. The snap-fitting pin 230 may include a collar 238 that surrounds at least a portion of the snap-fitting pin 230. When the first panel 50 is in the first position 51, the collar 238 may be configured to snap-fit within an aperture (not shown) located on the cabin floor 34. Once the collar 238 has passed through a surface of the cabin floor 34, the snap-fitting pin 230 may be retained within an aperture (not shown). The first and second attachment tabs 210, 214 may include a toe 242 that forms the end of the first and second attachment tabs 210, 214, which may enable an individual to release the snap-fitting pin 230 from the aperture (not shown) by pulling upwards on the toe 242. Once the first and second attachment tabs 210, 214 have been disengaged from the aperture (not shown), the first panel 50 may be slid to the second position 52 in the vehicle cargo compartment 14. When the first panel 50 is in the second position 52, then the snap-fitting pins 230 may be used to retain the second panel 54 to the first panel 50 to retain the second panel 54 in the second position 52 (FIG. 9).

The second panel **54** may include apertures (not shown) for receiving the snap-fitting pins **230**.

With reference to FIGS. **10** and **12**, in an alternate aspect, a hook-and-loop fastener **250** such as Velcro® may be used in place of the snap-fitting pin **230**. FIG. **12** is from detail XII shown in FIG. **10**. When the first panel **50** is in the first position **51**, the hook-and-loop fastener **250** may have a first portion **254** disposed on the first and second attachment tabs **210**, **214** and a second portion (not shown) disposed on the cabin floor **34**. When the first panel **50** is in the second position **52**, the hook-and-loop fastener **250** may have a first portion **254** disposed on the first and second attachment tabs **210**, **214** and a second portion (not shown) disposed on the second panel **54**. Thus, through securing the first panel **50** in the first position **51** or the second position **52**, the first panel **50** may be secure for safe cargo transportation in a variety of driving conditions (e.g., stops, acceleration, uneven terrain, vehicle impacts).

FIG. **13** shows a perspective view of the cutaway portion **260** of the first panel **50** that was previously shown in FIG. **10**. FIG. **13** is from detail XIII shown in FIG. **10**.

In various aspects, different designs may be used to achieve a bendable intersection **158** in the first panel **50**. Referring to FIGS. **10** and **14-16**, in various aspects, the bendable intersection **158** of the first panel **50** may be a thinned zone. The thinned zone may be configured to enable bending and folding between a first section **150** and a second section **154** of a first panel **50**. FIG. **14** depicts a first variant with a rectangular channel **280** that may enable bending and folding of the first panel **50**. FIG. **14** is from detail XIV shown in FIG. **10**. The rectangular channel **280** may provide a section **284** with a reduced thickness at an upper surface **288** of the first panel **50**. Referring to FIG. **15**, a second variant shows an L-shaped channel **292** that may provide an alternative configuration that allows for bending and folding along the length of the first panel **50**. FIG. **15** is from detail XV shown in FIG. **10**. FIG. **16** shows a third variant with a top channel **296** and a bottom channel **300** in the first panel **50**. FIG. **16** is from detail XVI shown in FIG. **10**. The top channel **296** and the bottom channel **300** may define a section **304** with a reduced thickness in the first panel **50**. The variants shown in FIGS. **14-16** may allow for bending and folding of the first panel **50** from a flat position **50A** to a bent position **50B** and an upright folded position **50C**. In various aspects, the first panel **50** may utilize other configurations that enable bending and folding that may be particular to various materials and design features of the first panel **50**.

In various aspects, the bendable intersection **188** of the second panel **54** may include a thinned zone similar to that of the first panel **50** to form a bendable intersection **188** between the first portion **180** and the second portion **184** of the second panel **54**. The second panel **54** may include other configurations to facilitate bending and folding from a flat orientation **54A** to a bent orientation **54B** to an upright folded orientation **54C** that are particular to the characteristics of the second panel **54**. For example, if the second panel **54** is a cover for the storage space **30**, then the second panel **54** may be made of a carpet-like material disposed over a structural component. In various aspects, the structural component may include various configurations that may enable bending and folding of the structural component that may be particular to material and design features of the structural component.

Referring now to FIGS. **17-19**, an exemplary embodiment of the first panel **50** and the second panel **54** in various configurations is shown. In the depicted embodiment of

FIGS. **17-19**, the first panel **50** and the second panel **54** are illustrated with the first panel **50** in the first position **51** (stacked position). It is to be understood that the first and second panels **50**, **54** shown in FIGS. **17-19** could each be arranged in the shown configurations independently of one another.

With reference to FIG. **17**, an exemplary embodiment of the first and second panels **50**, **54** in configurations as depicted in FIGS. **9A** and **9E** is shown. The first panel **50** is shown in the flat position **50A**. The second panel **54** is shown in the flat orientation **54A**. The first panel **50** may include a first section **150** and a second section **154**. A bendable intersection **158** may be disposed between the first section **150** and the second section **154**. A section **304** with a reduced thickness may be in the bendable intersection **158** of the first panel **50**. Section **304** is shown in FIG. **16**, and section **304** was previously discussed in relation to FIG. **16**. The first section **150** of the first panel **50** may be rotated from a horizontal position to a vertical position in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. **17**. The second panel **54** may include a first portion **180** and a second portion **184**. A bendable intersection **188** may be disposed between the first portion **180** and the second portion **184**. The bendable intersection **188** of the second panel **54** may include a step-like interface **314** between the first portion **180** of the second panel **54** and the second portion **184** of the second panel **54**. The step-like interface **314** may be disposed along the length of the second panel **54** along the bendable intersection **188** of the second panel **54**. The first portion **180** may include a first protrusion **318**. The second portion **184** may include a second protrusion **322**. When the second panel **54** is in a flat orientation **54A**, a lower surface **326** of the first protrusion **318** may abut an upper surface **330** of the second protrusion **322** at an interface area **334**. As previously discussed, in various embodiments the second panel **54** may be a cover. A carpet or other overlay may be disposed over the cover. In various embodiments, the carpet or other overlay may help to retain the first portion **180** to the second portion **184**.

Referring to FIG. **18**, an exemplary embodiment of the first and second panels **50**, **54** in the configurations depicted in FIGS. **9B** and **9F** is shown. An exploded view is shown of section **304** in the bendable intersection **158**. The first panel **50** is shown in the bent position **50B**. The first section **150** is shown in a vertical position that may be orthogonal to the horizontal position of the second section **154**. The first section **150** may be rotatable from the vertical position to the folded position in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. **18**. The second panel **54** is shown in the bent orientation **54B**. The first portion **180** is shown in a vertical orientation that may be orthogonal to the horizontal orientation of the second portion **184**. The first portion **180** may be rotatable from the vertical orientation to the folded orientation in the direction shown by the arrow in FIG. **18**.

Referring to FIG. **19**, an exemplary embodiment of the first and second panels **50**, **54** as shown in FIGS. **9D** and **9H** is shown. The first panel **50** is shown in the upright folded position **50C**. The first section **150** is shown in an inverted position. The second panel **54** is shown in the upright folded orientation **54C**. The first portion **180** is shown in an inverted orientation. As such, FIGS. **17-19** show various configurations of an exemplary embodiment of the first and second panels **50**, **54**.

A variety of advantages may be derived from use of the present disclosure. The first panel and the second panel may provide a slidable assembly that assists the individual in

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loading cargo. The first panel and the second panel may be configured to allow for convenient access to the storage space below the cabin floor.

It is to be understood that variations and modifications can be made on the afore-mentioned structure without departing from the concepts of the present disclosure, and further it is to be understood that such concepts are intended to be covered by the following claims unless these claims by their language expressly state otherwise.

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicular cargo assembly comprising:
 - a first panel slidably mounted on a floor of a vehicle cabin and selectively and alternatively positionable in a first position or a second position;
 - a storage space disposed below the floor, wherein the first panel is configured to cover the storage space in the first position; and
 - a second panel disposed over the storage space and positioned below the first panel when the first panel is in the first position, wherein when the first panel is in the first position, the first panel is selectively and alternatively positionable in a flat position, a bent position, and an upright folded position.
2. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein the second panel is selectively and alternatively positionable in a corresponding and respective flat orientation, a bent orientation, and an upright folded orientation.
3. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 2, wherein the storage space comprises a first storage space and a second storage space.
4. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 3, wherein when the first panel is in the bent position and the second panel is in the bent orientation, then the first storage space is accessible.
5. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 4, wherein when the first panel is in the upright folded position and the second panel is in the upright folded orientation, then the first and second storage spaces are accessible.
6. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein when the first panel is in the second position, the second panel is selectively and alternatively positionable in a flat orientation, a bent orientation, or an upright folded orientation.
7. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein when the first panel is in the second position a first portion of the second panel is rotatable from a substantially horizontal orientation to a substantially vertical orientation, so that the first portion of the second panel is orthogonal to a second portion of the second panel to allow access to a first storage space.
8. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 7, wherein when the first panel is in the second position the first portion of the second panel is rotatable from the substantially vertical

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orientation to an inverted orientation to allow access to the first storage space and a second storage space.

9. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein the first panel includes fasteners to restrain the first panel in one or more of the first position and the second position.

10. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein the first panel comprises a thinned zone forming a bendable intersection between a first section and a second section of the first panel.

11. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein the first panel includes a peripheral rim.

12. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein the first panel is slidably coupled to the second panel, wherein the first panel moves from the first position to the second position to transfer cargo from an outer area to an inner area of the vehicle cabin, wherein the first panel is stacked above the second panel in the first position, and wherein the first panel is adjacent the second panel in the second position.

13. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a seating assembly adjacent to the first and second panels when the first panel is in the first position, wherein the seating assembly is selectively positionable in an upright position and a downward position, and wherein the first panel is disposed over the seating assembly in a downward position when the first panel is in the second position.

14. A vehicular cargo assembly comprising:

- a first panel slidably mounted on a floor of a vehicle cabin and selectively and alternatively positionable in a first position or a second position;
- a storage space disposed below the floor, wherein the first panel is configured to cover the storage space in the first position; and
- a second panel disposed over the storage space and positioned below the first panel when the first panel is in the first position, wherein when the first panel is in a second position, the second panel is selectively and alternatively positionable in a flat orientation, a bent orientation, or an upright folded orientation.

15. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 14, wherein when the first panel is in the second position a first portion of the second panel is rotatable from a substantially horizontal orientation to a substantially vertical orientation, so that the first portion of the second panel is orthogonal to a second portion of the second panel to allow access to a first storage space.

16. The vehicular cargo assembly of claim 15, wherein when the first panel is in the second position and the first portion of the second panel is rotatable from the substantially vertical orientation to an inverted orientation to allow access to the first storage space and a second storage space.

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